

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/014174

Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-13 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-13 _____ received by this Authority on 02.08.2005
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets fig. 1-5 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☒ the claims, nos. 14-16 _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-13</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-13</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-13</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
Document 1: JP 2002-282951 A (Toyota Motor Corp.; Toyoda Iron Works Co., Ltd.; Sumitomo Metal Industries, Ltd.), 02 October 2002, entire text of the document			
Document 2: JP 63-72435 A (Aida Engineering, Ltd.), 02 April 1988, entire text of the document			
Document 3: JP 2002-96121 A (Takao WATANABE), 02 April 2002, entire text of the document			
Document 4: JP 46-5059 A (The Badd Co.), 24 November 1971, entire text of the document			
Document 5: JP 10-180366 A (Pacific Industrial Co., Ltd.), 07 July 1998, entire text of the document			
Document 6: Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 178518/1988 (Laid-open No. 84826/1989) (Toyota Auto Body Co., Ltd.), 06 June 1989, entire text of the document			
Document 7: JP 7-144235 A (NKK Corp.), 06 June 1989, entire text of the document			
Document 8: JP 7-47431 A (Mitsubishi Electric Corp.), 21 February 1995, entire text of the document			

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Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
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Document 9: JP 57-22827 A (Hitachi Zosen Corp.), 05

February 1982, entire text of the document

Document 10: JP 6-182457 A (Mazda Motor Corp.), 05 July

1994, entire text of the document

The inventions set forth in claims 1 to 13 are not disclosed in any of the documents that are cited in the international search report, and would not have been obvious to a person skilled in the art.